

## A BRILLIANT SEASON

Washington Society Planning for a Round of Gay Functions.

The New Year's Ball to Be Given by President and Mrs. Roosevelt Will Be Followed by a Series of Other Festivities.

Washington society will revel in January this winter as it has not done before in many years. The ball given by the president and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House on January 3 will, of course, be the most brilliant, but following upon it on January 15 will be the great affair in the ballroom at the New Willard, for which Miss Patten, Mrs. Barney and Mrs. Townsend are patronesses. This ball, like the one to come on January 29, under the same social leadership, will be by subscription.

Miss Kean, sister of Senator Kean, who is a cousin by marriage to President Roosevelt, will give a large ball on January 6 for Miss Alice Roosevelt; on January 8, the bachelors' cotillion will be by Capt. MacCauley and Miss Alice Roosevelt. The German ambassador gives a brilliant ball each winter, and this season it will have as its most prominent figure the daughter of the president. Though Mrs. Letzer has been indisposed since her return to the United States it is likely that with two young daughters who are fond of society she will add to the list another of her brilliant balls.

These, with the "small and early" dances, limited in number, but exclusive, and the several bachelors' cotillions with other smaller dances at the homes of prominent officials will make this a notable season in Washington society. Mrs. Draper is having the ballroom in her large Connecticut avenue house enlarged by about 50 feet each way, which indicates a ball or so for that residence.

Senator Depew, though soon to be married to a woman more literary than social, will probably introduce his bride to Washington society through a large ball instead of the reception formerly intended.

## CONDEMN'S AMERICAN ENGINES

Superintendent of Burnham Railroad Says They Are Poor in Design and Workmanship.

Bad design, bad workmanship and bad material characterize the mogul engines supplied the Burnham railways by the Baldwin works of Philadelphia, according to the official report made by the government of India by C. E. Carlaw, superintendent of locomotives for Burnham.

"These engines," says the report, "suggest the inference that the Baldwin works have had no particular experience in the construction of engines of this gauge and have merely reproduced small scale engines of standard gauge, apparently overlooking the fact that while the size of the engine has been reduced the size of the engine and the size of the engine remains the same as in the case of standard gauge engines."

"The accuracy of interchangeable parts is nothing like as exact as that of the British engines, and there are clear signs that they received very rough adjustment and manipulation by workmen not too handy with tools. The material used in certain parts is distinctly bad. Some of the engine's frame is made solely on account of bad material used in their construction, and it will need a radical alteration of design to cure this and other defects."

## WENT LONGEST WAY ROUND.

Striking Instance of Intelligent Telegraphic Service in Rural England.

A recent instance illustrates the intelligence of the telegraphic service as it is conducted under government supervision in England. A telegraph was sent from Dunwich to Westleton, Suffolk, a distance of two miles apart. It took one and one-quarter hours to transmit. Inquiry showed that it was sent by a man from Dunwich to Southwold, four miles as the crow flies, then telegraphed from there to Lowestoft, 11 miles. From Lowestoft, which lies in the extreme north of Suffolk, it was telegraphed to Ipswich, in the south, a distance in a straight line of 20 miles. From there it was transmitted to a station 18 miles to Saxmundham, then a few miles to Dursley, whence it was sent by foot messenger to Westleton. A boy could have walked the distance in about a third of the time.

## Woman Who Cannot Laugh.

Notwithstanding her baptismal name, Miss Susie Jenkins, of Philadelphia, is a most serious-minded young woman. She is known as the girl who has never laughed. Not only has Miss Jenkins never laughed in her 20 years of life and never felt a desire to do so, but she finds the performance a physical impossibility. Time after time she has made the effort to produce voluntary laughter. Her friends in their attempts to aid her have employed every known medical means to induce expressive hilarity. Miss Jenkins is looking for a specialist in nervous diseases who will be able to cure her remarkable temperamental idiosyncrasy.

## No Danger for Some of Us.

A Philadelphia bank teller has been stricken with smallpox because he called germ-infected currency. This is the only case of the disease reported in the city since the outbreak of the epidemic.

## ONE GIRL'S BRAVERY

Thirteen-Year-Old Plays Piano While Schoolhouse Is Burning.

Prevents Panic Among the Hundreds of Children as They March Out Through the Clouds of Smoke Rolling Through Corridors.

While clouds of smoke filled the hallways from a fierce fire which raged in the basement of the Lincoln school at Chicago just before noon the other day, Ethel Barker, 13 years old, daughter of Alderman John T. Barker, sat at a piano in the main corridor upstairs and played a lively two-step for the 200 children to keep time by while marching out of the burning building.

Miss Barker did not cease playing until the last child had left the building, and when she tried to escape she was twice driven back by clouds of dense smoke, which by that time rolled through the corridors. She finally reached a door and went to the first floor by groping along the walls and along the stair banisters.

When the girl volunteered to play the piano she was the only pupil who knew the building was on fire, for she had heard the "disaster" announcement which preceded the ringing of the fire-bell. When the gong sounded she ran from the eighth grade room and began to play. As a result of her calmness all the children were rescued safely, although a panic was narrowly averted when they reached the lower floor and found that the building was on fire.

At the time of the fire, Miss Barker said: "I knew that the building was on fire and was afraid if I did not run to the piano and begin playing the children would get excited and run down the stairs pell-mell. I tried to think of the music more than of the fire. I played a favorite march, and I made my fingers fly over the keys. I guess the pupils marched out in double-quick time. It makes me shiver now to think of being in the building, but I didn't mind it much at the time. The smoke was terrible, but I kept playing until all were out."

## TWINS END FAMILY DISCORD.

Both Sides in Lawsuit Are Thus Blessed and Plaintiff Signs Defendant's Bond.

Two sets of twins brought peace in a lawsuit at Chicago the other day in the court of Justice Dooley, and such good feeling resulted that the plaintiff signed the defendant's bonds.

Joseph Krasme, 544 South Jefferson street, appeared to prosecute his relatives Esther, Lena and Anna Halperin, as well as Dora Bauer, 586 Halsted street, on a charge of conspiracy. Attorney Miles Devine represented Krasme and asked that the proceedings be continued.

"My client's wife has given birth to twins," said he.

Attorney Elliott, for the defendants, stepped forward and said: "Your honor, I believe the attorney for the prosecution has set up a good ground for continuance. One of my clients, Lena Halperin, has also given birth to twins."

Krasme felt so elated over the state of affairs that he signed the defendants' bonds.

"And, your honor, my client informs me that he intends to name one of the twins after me," said Attorney Devine.

"Same here," said Attorney Elliott. Then they all went out together.

## THE BRITISH COAL TRADE.

Causing a Good Deal of Apprehension on Part of Owners and Merchants.

The situation in the British coal trade is causing a good deal of apprehension on the part of owners and merchants, and there is a resumption of the outcry against the export tax which formed so prominent a feature of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's last budget, says the London correspondent of the New York Tribune. Coal exports have decreased by 158,000 tons during the first ten months of the present year, and the average number of days worked by the collieries has generally fallen off, while in most of the principal districts the supply is in excess of the demand. The iron industry, which usually accounts for from 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 tons a year, has greatly reduced its consumption, owing to the reduction in the number of furnaces in blast. In the face of all this, new collieries which were begun and old ones which were reopened during the boom last year are increasing their capacity, and there is every probability of a considerably larger quantity of coal being put on the market. Prices have not yet fallen to anything like the level of three years ago, but the decline that has already taken place leaves them five shillings below the high water mark of last year, and the tendency is to drop still lower.

## Promise Immense Speed.

According to the London correspondent of the New York Tribune, promoters of the London & Brighton electric railway make the announcement that they will convey passengers the 47 miles in 32 minutes. The suggested length of their tunneling is enormous. It is proposed that there shall be 33 tunnels, with a total length of 19 1/2 miles. The scheme is looked upon as an interesting but costly experiment.

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Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure dizziness and sick headache.

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## Reminiscences

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